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News Releases and other News Material

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0727.93
Washington, D.C.: Barbara Anderson (202) 205-1576
Portland: Patty Burel (503) 326-5112
Tim Rogan (503) 326-7739

USDA FOREST SERVICE BEGINS DEVELOPING ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR EASTERN OREGON AND EASTERN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30--The USDA Forest Service announced its intent to begin developing a new management strategy for National Forests in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington. The strategy will be based on ecosystem management concepts.

"We are moving forward with Presidential direction to develop a scientifically-sound ecosystem-based strategy for forests on the eastside," said Jim Lyons, assistant secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

In his Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustainable Environment, the President directed the USDA Forest Service to:

o Focus on restoring the health of forest ecosystems;

o Develop a scientifically sound and ecosystem based strategy for management of eastside forests;

o Base the strategy on the forest health study recently completed by agency scientists (the Eastside Forest Health Assessment) and related studies;

o Accelerate efforts to prepare timber sales to harvest dead and dying timber on the eastside.

"In recent months, several new studies and information have become available that point to a need to consider change on the eastside," said Lyons. "The USDA Forest Service intends to work together with the public and other agencies to design and implement a process for carrying out the President's direction."

The Forest Service and its Pacific Northwest Research Station will be working with other agencies, and involving the public in an open process to begin the implementation of an ecosystem based strategy for the eastside forests. Forest Service managers and field people will be using this new information and research to improve the way we manage the public forest resources.

"Soon we will establish an interagency team to develop the strategy to accomplish this important task. We remain committed to protecting healthy forest ecosystems on the eastside," said Lyons. Part of the team's task will be the production of a draft environmental impact statement by spring or summer of 1994. The team will be headquartered in either Spokane or Walla Walla, Washington.

At the same time, Regional Forester John Lowe announced the establishment of a screening process for timber sales on the eastside. "Several recent studies have given us information indicating that we need to move forward with an ecosystem approach on the eastside," said Lowe. "These studies are causing us to re-evaluate current management direction. Consequently, we have established a screening process for timber sales with old growth, old growth-associated wildlife, and riparian habitat vital for fisheries."

These new information sources are:

o Forest Ecosystem Health Assessment (Everett Report) commissioned by U.S. Representative Thomas D. Foley, Speaker of the House, and Senator Mark O. Hatfield - completed in June 1993;

o Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management studies on habitat needs for viable fish populations, particularly anadromous fish (Salmon) - now being finalized;

o Forest Service forest plan monitoring reports indicating that due to tree mortality and new more site-specific inventories, the amount and configuration of existing old growth is less than what was anticipated;

o Consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service with respect to threatened and endangered fish.

Lowe stated, "For the short term, we have developed this screening process to keep some measure of timber sales moving forward, while preserving future management options."

People interested in becoming involved in the development of the long-term strategy are encouraged to notify Regional Forester John Lowe (P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208), PNW Research Station Director Charles Philpot, and/or the appropriate Eastside National Forest Supervisor.

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Release No. 0728.93
Jim McKenna (202) 720-1260
Jim Brownlee (202) 720-2091

PRESIDENT NAMES 5 DIRECTORS TO RURAL TELEPHONE BANK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced the appointment by President Clinton of five directors, representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to the 13-member board of directors of the Rural Telephone Bank.

The bank is a supplemental source of financing for the rural telephone program of the Rural Electrification Administration, a USDA agency. Named to the board were USDA officials Bob J. Nash, under secretary for Small Community and Rural Development; Ron Blackley, chief of staff to Secretary Espy; Wardell C. Townsend, assistant secretary for Administration; Sharron S. Longino, acting administrator, Farmers Home Administration, and Sharron Harris, director of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

The RTB was established by Congress in 1971, by an amendment to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, which set up an additional source of funding for rural telephone utilities eligible to borrow from the REA. The bank has an outstanding loan portfolio of about $2 billion.

There are a total of seven presidential appointees to the RTB's board, five from USDA and two from the private sector. The other six members are elected, representing cooperative and commerical stockholders.

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Release No. 0730.93
Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Jerry Redding (202) 720-3310

USDA ASKS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA ORANGE MARKETING ORDERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31--Orange growers, handlers and the general public have until Nov. 1 to propose amendments to the federal marketing orders for California-Arizona navel and Valencia oranges.

On June 18, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said USDA would amend the orders because the number of lawsuits associated with these marketing orders "clearly indicate the program isn't working as well as it should." he said the lawsuits have hurt growers, pickers, packers and consumers.

Espy said scrutiny of the orders demonstrates "widespread circumvention of the current program as well as division and turmoil within the citrus industry relating to citrus marketing orders and volume controls." He said USDA would thoroughly review and reconsider volume regulations and the orders in general. (USDA Release No. 0503.93, June 18, 1993.)

Citrus marketing orders have been in place for over 45 years. Marketing orders are designed to prevent a glut or shortage of product on the market, prevent price wars and harm to farmers, and to provide stability within the industry. Some orders, including oranges, have volume restrictions which are designed to act as a mechanism to stabilize prices and supplies.

Written proposals should be submitted by Nov. 1 to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2522-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; FAX (202) 720-5698.

After receiving all proposals, USDA officials will hold a public hearing to gather information and evidence of how the amendments could help carry out program objectives. If evidence favors the proposed amendments, they will be presented to navel and Valencia growers for a vote.

For more information on the California-Arizona navel and Valencia orange marketing order programs contact Christian Nissen at the above address or Maureen Pello, California Marketing Field Office, 2202 Monterey St., #102B, Fresno, Calif. 93721, phone: (209) 487-5901.

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Release No. 0732.93
Ben Hardin (309) 681-6597
Dana Hallman-Bama (202) 720-2032

RUSSIAN WHEAT APHIDS LEAVE "TRACKS" ON RESISTANT BARLEY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--A Russian wheat aphid's bite on barley leaves may help researchers find barley plant lines that will resist the pest's attacks.

As aphids feed on the barley, they leave microscopic "needle tracks" on the punctured leaves. U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists at Stillwater, Okla., have discovered plant cells around these punctures collapse and emit a faint glow under ultraviolet light, called autofluorescense.

By counting the glowing sites, researchers can determine which leaves are probed most frequently. Other studies at Stillwater suggest the aphids probe less palatable plants more frequently in search of a tasty spot.

Plant physiologist Helen Belefant-Miller of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said the findings will help speed up development of aphid-resistant barley breeding lines.

"By monitoring the amount of autofluorescence, we can identify aphid-resistant plants in a single day, compared with the three weeks normally required to test barley seedlings for resistance," said Belefant-Miller.

In experiments at Stillwater, Russian wheat aphids spent less time feeding on resistant barleys and probed the resistant plants more often.

Until now, scientists had seen autofluorescence in plants only as a result of infection by disease-causing microbes. The discovery that the Russian wheat aphids attacks elicit a similar response is one of the few clues to date on the biochemical reason some plants are resistant.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details Helen Belefant-Miller, Plant Science Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Stillwater, Okla. 74075. Telephone: (405) 624-4251.

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Release No. 0733.93
Patrick Duffey (202) 690-1384
Jerry Redding (202) 720-3310

CO-OPS' SALES AT RECORD $80 BILLION IN 1992; NET INCOME DOWN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--While U.S. farmer cooperatives reported record net business volume of nearly $80 billion in 1992, net income for cooperatives declined, according to figures released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Combined business volume was up 4.0 percent from the $76.6 billion reported in 1991 and nearly 3.1 percent above the 1990 record of $77.3 billion.

Net income of $1.5 billion was down 7.2 percent from the nearly $1.6 billion reported in 1991. About 19 percent of cooperatives experienced losses in 1992. Losses totaled $172.5 million.

The higher business volume was due primarily to higher prices for milk and food grains and higher production of milk, grains and oilseeds as well as increased sales of farm supplies by cooperatives, reported Randall E. Torgerson, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Cooperative Service.

Combined assets of farmer cooperatives totaled $32.5 billion, up 3.5 percent. Total liabilities of nearly $18.1 billion were up 4.4 percent. Net worth of $14.4 billion was up 2.3 percent.

Total cooperative business volume includes marketing (the value of products sold), farm supplies (sales of fertilizer, chemicals, fuels, feed and other supplies to members and patrons), receipts from services such as trucking, storage, ginning and artificial insemination, and other income (interest income, service charges on past due accounts, etc.).

Record sales in 1992 were transacted by fewer cooperatives--4,320, compared with 4,494 in 1991. While some cooperatives discontinued operations, others were added to ACS's database. Mergers, consolidations and acquisitions tended to reduce the number as farmer-owners sought to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of their businesses.

Memberships reached 4.1 million, up slightly from 1991. The number of memberships is larger than the number of farms because many farmers belong to and use the services of more than one cooperative.

Net income of marketing cooperatives decreased 2.3 percent. Among marketing cooperatives, the largest percentage decreases in net income were by those handling grain and oilseeds, livestock and poultry, and other products such as dry edible beans and peas, tobacco and wool. Continued low grain merchandising margins was a contributing factor.

Marketing volume was up 4.2 percent to $58.6 billion. Dairy cooperatives accounted for the largest proportion (35.3 percent) of marketings with sales of $20.7 billion. Grains and oilseeds accounted for 26 percent of total marketings. Their sales increased 5.1 percent to $15.2 billion due to increased production and increased prices of food grains.

Business volume of "other products" increased 5.4 percent. In this group, wool and dry edible beans and peas showed the largest percentage increases. The largest decreases were in tobacco.

Farm supply volume was up 3.4 percent to $18.5 billion. Farm chemicals, feed, and seed sales were up 15.0 percent, 11.3 percent, and 10.7 percent, respectively. Fertilizer sales were up 2.2 percent. Income from services provided and other income was up 1.0 percent.

Table 1--COOPERATIVE BUSINESS VOLUME, 1991 AND 1992 1/

Commodity or function	Business volume 2/	
	1991	1992
	Million dollars	
Products marketed:		
Cotton	2,343	2,075
Dairy	18,819	20,663
Fruits and vegetables	8,170	7,608
Grains and oilseeds 3/	14,472	15,213
Livestock and poultry	6,281	6,155
Nuts	823	916
Rice	706	772
Sugar	1,840	2,290
Other products 4/	2,749	2,897
Total	56,203	58,590
Supplies purchased:		
Farm chemicals	1,825	2,100
Feed	4,097	4,560
Fertilizer	3,631	3,710
Petroleum	5,118	4,777
Seed	552	611
Other supplies 5/	2,693	2,769
Total farm supplies	17,916	18,527

Services and other income: 6/	2,517	2,542
TOTAL	76,636	79,659

1/ Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.
2/ Volume includes value of products associated with cooperatives that operate on a commission basis and bargain for members' products. Excludes intercooperative business.
3/ Excludes cottonseed.
4/ Includes dry edible beans and peas, fish, tobacco, wool, and other miscellaneous products.
5/ Includes building materials, containers, farm machinery and equipment, meats and groceries, and other supplies.
6/ Services includes trucking, ginning, storage, artificial insemination, and other.

Table 2--FARMER COOPERATIVES' NET INCOME, 1991 AND 1992 1/

Cooperative type	Total net income 2/ 1991	Total net income 2/ 1992
	Million dollars	
Marketing:		
Cotton	69.5	73.4
Dairy	190.3	202.6
Fruits and vegetables	108.7	152.3
Grain and oilseeds	317.7	277.1
Livestock and poultry	69.3	-6.1
Rice	17.4	20.4
Sugar	20.2	34.9
Other products 3/	17.2	37.3
Total	810.3	791.9
Farm supply	639.0	592.2
Selected service	120.5	72.8
TOTAL	1,569.9	1,456.9

1/ Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.
2/ Net income less losses.
3/ Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

Table 3--FARMER COOPERATIVE NUMBERS AND MEMBERSHIPS, 1992 1/

Cooperative type	Cooperatives 2/	Memberships
	Number	
Marketing:		
Cotton 3/	18	38,758
Dairy	269	123,896
Fruits and vegetables	290	51,410
Grains and oilseeds	1,244	883,663
Livestock and poultry	108	355,684
Rice	23	7,396
Sugar	59	13,705
Other products 4/	212	365,615
Total	2,223	1,840,127

Farm supply	1,690	2,020,469
Selected service	479	212,466
TOTAL	4,392	4,073,062

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1/ Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding.
2/ Operations of many cooperatives are multiproduct and multifunctional. They are classified in most cases according to predominant commodity or function indicated by business volume.
3/ Cooperative cotton gins included with selected service cooperatives.
4/ Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

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Release No. 0736.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

CCC INTEREST RATE FOR SEPTEMBER REMAINS AT 3-1/2 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--Commodity loans disbursed in September by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 3-1/2 percent interest rate, according to Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the CCC.

The 3-1/2 percent interest rate is unchanged from August's 3-1/2 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in September.

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Release No. 0737.93
Ben Hardin (309) 681-6597
Dana Hallman-Bama (202) 720-2032

NATURAL COMPOUNDS KEEP BERRIES FRESH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--Fresh raspberries and strawberries soon may be packaged with an extra measure of their own fruity floral aroma to stay fresh longer, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

Researchers at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, Ill., have identified five natural berry aroma compounds that block mold growth. One compound, 2-nonanone, is especially promising because of its fruity floral aroma, chemical stability and low cost--less than a penny for enough to treat a quart of berries, excluding application cost.

Plant physiologist Steven F. Vaughn and chemist Gayland F. Spencer studied 15 major compounds that partially make up berry aroma. They sealed small amounts of the compounds in jars with berries inoculated with three of the most troublesome fungi. Five of the compounds prevented fungal growth for at least a week when refrigerated at 50 degrees F.

Vaughn and Spencer have applied for a patent on the compounds' use. A commercial product would need federal approval.

"The produce industry may someday use one of these compounds in slow-release formulations to slow spoilage of fresh berries," said Vaughn of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. ARS is seeking industrial cooperators to speed this technology.

Protection against fungi would allow grocers to stock more berries, keep them longer, and offer consumers riper and tastier berries than those picked early to prolong shelf life.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details Steven F. Vaughn, Bioactive Constituents Research Unit, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Peoria, Ill. 61604. Telephone: (309) 685-4011.

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Release No. 0738.93
Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898
Jerry Redding (202) 720-4026

USDA HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS CONTROL PROGRAM PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will host a public hearing next Tuesday, Sept. 7, on proposed changes to the Salmonella enteritidis (SE) regulations.

The hearing will be held from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., in Room 3501 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

USDA's proposal to revise its regulations to improve the SE control program's effectiveness in reducing the risks of outbreaks of human salmonellosis was published in the Aug. 2 Federal Register. The comment period on the proposed rule ends Oct. 1.

USDA's SE control program investigates all egg-related outbreaks of human salmonellosis reported by state departments of public health and the Centers for Disease Control. Officials locate infected chicken flocks then divert contaminated eggs to pasteurization plants.

All interested parties or their attorneys and other representatives may attend and read a written statement. Persons wishing to speak at the hearing will be asked to sign their name and organization for the record. All speakers should give two copies of their written statement to the USDA representative presiding at the hearing. The presiding officer may have to limit the time for each presentation to allow every person wishing to speak the opportunity to do so.

For more information or a copy of the proposed rule, contact Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, USDA-APHIS, at (301) 436-7768.

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Release No. 0742.93
Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-6179
Jerry Redding (202) 720-3310

USDA ANNOUNCES REFERENDUM ON NEW FLUID MILK PROMOTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold an October 12-21 milk processors'referendum to vote on approval of a proposed national fluid milkpromotion and consumer education program.

Charles R. Brader, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the program is authorized by the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (part of the 1990 Farm Bill). Those processing and marketing more than 500,000 pounds of fluid milk products in a representative period set by the Secretary of Agriculture are eligible to vote in the referendum, Brader said.

The program would be administered by a 20-member board,consisting mostly of milk processor representatives, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The program would be funded by mandatory assessments on processors whose monthly marketing exceeds 500,000 pounds of fluid milk products in consumer packages.

Brader also said USDA is inviting non-profit milk processor organi-zations to submit applications to be considered for nominating board members and for eligibility to bid on the board's promotion and education contracts.

To determine their eligibility, processors should contact Pat Clark, Referendum Agent, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, tel.(202) 720-9370, by September 21, Brader said.

Details of the referendum and of the promotion program will appear as separate final and proposed rules in the Sept. 3 FEDERAL REGISTER. For copies and additional information, contact the referendum agent.

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Release No. 0743.93
Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998
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USDA PROTECTS 13 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued certificates of protection to developers of 13 new varieties of seed reproduced plants. The plants include alfalfa, garden bean, cotton, cowpea, tall fescue, pea, annual ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, soybean and wheat.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington, D.C., said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

--the WL 322 HQ variety of alfalfa, developed by W-L Research Inc., Evansville, Wis.;

--the Summit variety of garden bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;

--the LA 887 variety of cotton, developed by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Baton Rouge, La.;

--the Clemson Purple variety of cowpea, developed by the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, Clemson, S.C.;

--the Olympic II and Tradition varieties of tall fescue, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, Ore.;

--the Premium and June varieties of pea, developed by Van Waveren Pflanzenzucht Gmbh, Rosdorf, Germany;

--the Tachiwase and Tachimasari varieties of annual ryegrass, developed by the Snow Brand Seed Co., Tokyo, Japan;

--the Cutless variety of perennial ryegrass, developed by International Seeds Inc., Halsey, Ore.;

--the W20 variety of soybean, developed by the E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Del.; and

--the Mallard variety of wheat, developed by AgriPro Biosciences Inc., Shawnee Mission, Kan.

The certificate of protection for the Mallard wheat variety is being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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Release No. 0745.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2065

CCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1994 FARM PROGRAM COMMON PROVISIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today asked for comments on 1994 annual commodity program provisions for wheat, feed grains, rice, upland cotton and extra-long-staple cotton and on the implementation of cost-reduction options.

The proposed regulations will be published in the Federal Register on September 3, 1993.

Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of CCC, said that comments are sought on the following:

-- what percentage of estimated deficiency payments should be made available in advance to producers of the 1994 crops of wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice;

-- which crops should not be permitted to be planted on "flex" acreage.

-- whether the targeted option payment program should be made available to wheat, feed grain, rice and upland cotton producers;

-- whether to permit the planting of specified crops on up to half of the acreage conservation reserve;

-- whether to allow the planting of oats on ACR acreage under the wheat and feed grain programs;

-- whether to allow the planting of conserving crops on ACR acreage and, if so, which conserving crops to allow;

-- whether to allow the planting of alternative crops on acreage designated as conserving use and, if so, which alternative crops to allow;

-- whether to implement any cost-reduction options for 1994 commodity program operations.

CCC is proposing to make available advance deficiency payments of 40 percent of the projected payment levels for the 1994 crops of wheat, feed grains, rice, upland cotton and, if applicable, ELS cotton. By law, CCC must offer wheat and feed grain producers 40-50 percent, upland cotton and rice producers 30-50 percent and ELS cotton producers no more than 50 percent of their estimated deficiency payments in advance.

CCC is also proposing that no other crops be added to the list that may not be planted on flex acreage and that the planting of oats on ACR acreage not be implemented for 1994 crops.

CCC proposes that no cost reduction options be implemented at this time. However, the Secretary still reserves the right to initiate, at a later date, any of the following actions, if it is determined that they will reduce total direct and indirect commodity program costs without adversely affecting incomes of small- and medium-sized producers:

-- enter into the commercial market to purchase commodities covered by nonrecourse loans if the cost would be less than later acquiring the commodity through loan default;

-- provide for settlement of nonrecourse loans at less than full principal plus interest; or,

-- reopen signup to allow producers to bid for conversion of planted acreage to diverted acreage with payment in kind from commodity stocks. Comments submitted on the foregoing provisions should include:

-- justification for the designation;

-- the impact on farm income and CCC outlays, and

-- production practices, costs and market prices.

Comments should be sent to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013 and must be received by October 4, 1993.

All comments will be available for public inspection in room 3090-S of USDA's south building during regular business hours.

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Release No. 0746.93
Billy Cox (202) 720-3329
Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2065

USDA MAKES MEXICO ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL VEGETABLE OIL UNDER THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept.3--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos todayannounced that Mexico is eligible for an additional 20,000 metric tons ofvegetable oil under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of vegetable oil will be made through normal commercial channels atcompetitive world market prices. Sales will be facilitated through thepayment of bonuses of UDSA's Commodity Credit Corporation. This vegetable oil allocation will be valid until September 30, 1993, as provided in the invitations for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or L.T.McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Release No. 0747.93
Billy Cox (202) 720-3329
Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2065

USDA TARGETS FOUR COUNTRIES UNDER 1992/93 EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR BARLEY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced additional opportunities for sales of U.S. barley to Jordan, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

The allocations in metric tons are as follows:

The Czech Republic and Slovakia	100,000
Jordan	50,000
Slovenia	50,000

Sales of barley will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The allocations will be valid until Sept. 30, as provided in the invitations for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Program Announcements-

Releases No. 0731.93
Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734
Carol Childers (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.80 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.17 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.09 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.40 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
	.............$/Cwt.	....
--for long grain:	$2.03	$0.42
--for medium grain:	$1.84	$0.40
--for short grain:	$1.84	$0.35

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 7 at 3 p.m. EDT.

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Release No. 0734.93
Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2065

U.S. INDUSTRY BUYS 489 MILLION POUNDS OF 1992 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--U.S. cigarette manufacturers purchased 489.1 million pounds of farm sales weight flue-cured tobacco from July 1, 1992 through June 30, 1993 (excluding pre-1985 loan stocks).

The manufacturers' purchase intentions for the 1992 crop were 497.2 million pounds. Actual purchases were 98.4 percent of intended purchases.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 requires each major domestic cigarette manufacturer to purchase at least an amount equal to 90 percent of their stated purchase intentions to avoid the assessment of a penalty.

Contact: Robert Tarczy (202) 720-8839.

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Release No. 0739.93
Janise Zygmont (202) 720-6734
Carol Childers (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Sept. 2--Bruce R. Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Sept. 9. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 3 through midnight Thursday, Sept. 9.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 79 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.13 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	41.37	cents per pound
	1993 Base Loan Rate	52.35	cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	79	
II.	USNE Price	56.13	cents per pound
	NE Price	-55.00	cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.13	cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price		
NE Price		55.00
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.50	
Average U.S. location	0.31	

Sum of Adjustments	- 13.63	
Calculated AWP	41.37	
Further AWP adjustment	- 0	
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	41.37	cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	55.00	
NE Coarse Count Price	- 50.65	
	4.35	
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.20	
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT..............................	1.15	cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991, 1992, and 1993 base quality loan rates of 50.77, 52.35, and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1993-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments (LDPs) will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1993 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain an LDP on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has not exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 0. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Price	NE Price	User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
		....	cents/lb	....
1	Aug. 12, 1993	57.60	55.50	0.85
2	Aug. 19, 1993	56.05	54.85	0
3	Aug. 26, 1993	56.45	55.19	0
4	Sept. 2, 1993	56.13	55.00	0

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Sept. 9.

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Release No. 0741.93
Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
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USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO ISSUE ELECTRONIC COTTON WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--The United States Department of Agriculture wants public comment on a proposal to authorize the use of "electronic cottonwarehouse receipts" by warehousemen licensed under the United StatesWarehouse Act (USWA). The proposed rule will implement amendments made to the Act by Public Law 102-553, approved Oct. 28, 1992.

Under the present system, the 167 USWA licensed warehousemen must issue paper warehouse receipts for each bale of cotton stored in their warehouses. Under the proposed rule, USWA licensed warehousemen who wish to participate in this voluntary program will be able to electronically transfer interest, and other practices previously done, on paper.

USWA licensed warehousemen will be required to use providers of acentral filing system, or data base, to store the warehouse receipt data created under this new system. It is proposed that the provider of the system be a private individual or entity approved by the secretary of agriculture.

The proposed rule was published in the Aug. 16 Federal Register and comments are requested from interested parties.

To be assured of consideration, comments must be received no later than Oct. 15 by the Director, Licensing Authority Division, USDA, ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Room 5962-S, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415, telephone 202-720-2121, FAX 202-690-0014

Contact: Steve Mikkelsen or Lynda Moore 202-720-2121.

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Release No. 0744.93
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USDA EXTENDS CONTRACTING DATE FOR ADDITIONAL PEANUTS

WASHINGTON, Sept.3--The final date for submitting contracts for the purchase of 1993-crop additional peanuts for export or crushing has been extended from Sept. 15 through Sept. 30, an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today. Additional peanuts are those peanuts that are produced in excess of the quota established for a farm.

Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said that contracts must be submitted to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county office in the county where the farm on which the additional peanuts are produced is located.

Peanut program regulations permit the CCC executive vice president to extend the contracting date by up to 15 days if adverse weather is expected to have significant national impact on peanut production.

According to Weber, the extended drought in much of the U.S. peanut producing area is expected to adversely impact 1993 peanut production.

Weber said the extension will give producers and handlers more time to better evaluate crop conditions before they enter into purchase contracts for 1993 additional peanuts.

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Media Advisories-

Release No. 0729.93
Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Jerry Redding (202) 720-3310

FGIS SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMA CHANGES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30--The USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service today published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comments on the inspection and certification of certain agricultural commodities and their products under the Agricultural Marketing Act.

FGIS is seeking comments on the need to: eliminate special appeal inspection requirements for rice; eliminate the provisions for requesting, performing, and certificating new original inspections; establish a commercial inspection service that would allow the use of modified sampling and inspection procedures; and, eliminate the required issuance of inspection certificates. FGIS also is soliciting comments on the need to revise other AMA regulations.

According to FGIS acting administrator David Galliart, the agency is soliciting comments as part of a required periodic review of existing regulations.

Written comments must be submitted on or before November 25, 1993, to George Wollam, FGIS, USDA, Room 0624 South Building, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; or, automatic telecopier (202) 720-4628.

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Release No. 0735.93
Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623
Jim Sanders (202) 205-1772

COMMENTS SOLICITED ON FOREST PLAN IMPACT STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1--The Departments of Agriculture and Interior will hold joint public hearings in California, Oregon, and Washington in late September. Public input and comments will be heard on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. The DSEIS, prepared by an interagency team of scientists, is an analysis of the environmental effects of the recommendations made by the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Working Group.

Two hearings will be held each day, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Interior will participate to receive comments. Hearings will be held in the following locations: Red Lion Inn, 1830 Hilltop Drive, Redding, California (September 27); Columbia Hall, Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th Street NE, Salem, OR (September 29); Saint Martin's College, Worthington Conference Center, 5300 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, WA (Olympia area) (October 1).

People wishing to speak at one of the hearings should register at the site prior to the hearing start. Registration will begin one hour before each hearing.

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Correction: EEP EXPIRATION DATE ANNOUNCED FOR BARLEY MALT

Release No. 0748.93
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WASHINGTON, Sept. 3--In USDA Release No. 0725.93, issued Aug. 27 announcing the 1993-94 Export Enhancement Program for Barley Malt, the expiration date was not stated in the release. It should have been listed as June 30, 1994.

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